

Title: ~~The Mediator of a Better Covenant~~ *The New Covenant*

May 3

Text: Hebrews 8:1-~~2~~

Take your Bibles and turn to the most Kosher book in the N.T.; Hebrews chapter 8. One of the beautiful things about the book of Hebrews is the repetition of the word "better." Everything is better when you know the Lord. Hebrews chapter 8.....

We are beginning, today, the second major section of the book of Hebrews. To this point Paul has been demonstrating the AUTHORITY of Jesus Christ over everything. Now, he goes specifically into the Area of Christ's ATONEMENT FOR ALL OF US. The NEW COVENANT UPON WHICH CHRISTIANITY IS BUILT. The new covenant is not something that ^{was} not known in the O.T. however. The Old Testament or the Old Covenant which is so beautifully described in 39 books reveals the New Testament. As a matter of fact, the prophecy of the New Covenant is found in the Old Covenant in the book of Jeremiah chapter 31.

In Hebrews chapter 8 verse 1 through the end of the chapter we have a prediction of the New Covenant. And the teaching regarding it as it comes out of the Old Testament. The New Covenant ^{of Love} is the hope of the world. I hope you know that before we are through discussing it. The New Contract, the New Covenant that God established and predicted in the Old Testament is: truly the hope of the world. It is the hope of you as an individual, also. And if you haven't discovered that, yet, it is my prayer that you will before we are through. We are learning of the NEW marvelous covenant which God has established with the world.

(Read Hebrews 8:1-6)

Will you join with me in a word of prayer

Thank you Lord, again, for your Word. And we know that here is the truth that will set us free. We thank you that Jesus is truly the mediator of a New and better covenant. And Father we pray that you would help us to understand the difference between the new and the old covenant and why Jesus is so much better.....And we ask this in Jesus name....'

(1B) The PREDICTION OF THIS NEW COVENANT (IN THE FIRST SIX VERSES) IS BASED,
(1C) first of all, on the pattern of the old covenant. The old covenant according to Paul was merely a sample, or a symbol, or a ~~type~~, or a copy, of things that are heavenly. They are representing the real. That which ~~is~~ ^{is} apparant is not really the issue. The apparant priesthood of the O.T., The tabernacle and all the things that they saw and they felt that this was the real. No, it wasn't the real.

The real was deeper than that which they saw by way of physical symbols. And that is what this chapter is all about. It is based upon the pattern of the old covenant.

(1D) I would like you to notice, first of all, in Vs 1 and 2 the ^{main point} ~~summary~~ that is given concerning our high priest. ~~And really, it is the main point of the whole book of Hebrews. Paul is saying that every thing that I am writing about in this book, this is the heart of all that I want to say. Which means: that the main subject of Hebrews is a discussion of the New Covenant which God has established with his people through his son Jesus Christ. That is what Hebrews is all about. That is why it was written to Jews who were familiar with the Old covenant. It was written to tell them that the Old covenant predicted that God would establish a new contract with His people through his son Jesus Christ.~~ And really, it is the main point of the whole book of Hebrews. Paul is saying that every thing that I am writing about in this book, this is the heart of all that I want to say. Which means: that the main subject of Hebrews is a discussion of the New Covenant which God has established with his people through his son Jesus Christ. That is what Hebrews is all about. That is why it was written to Jews who were familiar with the Old covenant. It was written to tell them that the Old covenant predicted that God would establish a new contract with His people through his son Jesus Christ.

Now, there are two aspects of this main point that He is emphasesing. Two things which characterize the whole book. And they are mentioned here in Vs 1 and 2.

(1E) One. deals with the exaltation of Christ. Vs 1 says "we have such a high priest, who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens."

This book is about exalting Jesus. It is impossible to exalt Him to much. The Book says that the Father honors and exalts the son. And desires that all men who worship and honor and adore the Son, Jesus Christ.

We cannot honor Jesus to much. And the book of Hebrews exalts Jesus.

Hebrew

This chapter reminds me of Chapter 1. Because in chapter 1 verse 3 in the last phrase in speaking of Jesus it says that He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high."

Do you know what that means?

When Christ ascended into heaven He sat down on the right hand. This means he finished the work that was required to put into force the New Convnant. Now a contract or a will. I think it would be better to discuss WILL's because today we know the word "will" a lot better than we do the word "testament" or "convenant." It is a "will".

And a "will" that he will go on to argue in chapter 9 requires the death of the testator in order for the will to be put into force. If you have a will, the provisions will not work until you die. When you die the will, from a legal point of view goes into force.

God's new covenant goes into force upon the death of the testator. When Jesus died on the ~~the~~ cross the New Covenant was immidiately ~~put~~ put into force. And at the time of that event something happened to prove that the Old Convenant ~~was~~ ended and the New Covenant began.

Many people ask the question: When did the New Covenant begin? Because in ~~Jeremiah~~ Jeremiahc 31 it predicts a coming in the futrue when all Israel will be saved and turn to the Lord when ~~they~~ see the Messiah come. ^{So,} When did the New Covenant start? And when did the Old Covenant end....

ANSWER: AT THE MOMENT OF THE DEATH OF JEUS CHRIST ON THE CROSS... Because when he died an event happend in the Temple . The Bible says that the veil in the Temple in Jerseulem, the veil between the Holy place and the Holy of Holies was ripped ~~open~~ ^{apart} And it was done in an unusually way. It was ripped from top to bottom which was almost impossible because the viel was woven in the opposite direction.

SURELY

The veil was torn ^{apart} into at the time of the death of Jesus. It was an event which told the people that the way into the Holy of Holies, which only the High Priest could go once a year on the day of Atonement, Yom Kipper, NOW, THAT TEMPLE WITH THAT TORN VIEL WAS OPEN AS IT WERE TO ALL BELIEVERS. And the main point of Hebrews is that Jesus provided the way.....

That Jesus was the veil that was torn. The Bible says the veil was His flesh. And later on in chapter 10 we will learn that believers, now, can come directly into the presence of God without the intervention of an earthly priest.....WHY?....Because the New covenant is now in force. The old covenant ended at the moment of the death of Jesus Christ. Just like any will is in force upon the death of the testator. It is fantastic.

The exhortation of Jesus Christ is what this book is all about.

(2E) Secondly, the book is about the exercise of the Priesthood of Christ. That Christ is now our sufficient, and only, and complete High Priest. We have no need of any other earthly priest at all. As a matter of fact, all of us as believers have become a kingdom of Priests, the Bible says. We can be priest ourselves. Every believer. And we are in Jesus Christ. He is the Priest who is the Priest of a heavenly sanctuary.

Look at Vs 2 of chapter 8. It says "he is a minister in the sanctuary, and in the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched and not man."

Now, the word "minister" refers to "an official public servant." The Levites and their Priesthood was called that. Christ was also called a minister.

Just a couple of things that I want to mention about Vs 2.

(1F) One, deals with a comparison between Christ and the Levitical Priest.

Christ is a minister. An official public servant in the same way that the Priest are. They are appointed or ordained to the task by divine selection. Now, the way the Levites ~~now~~ knew that they were to continue in that divine selection was whether or not they were born into that line. The way that we know that Christ is a Priest is by an oath. God swore that he would send the Messiah who would be a Priest forever after the order of Melchizedek, And that has been the whole argument up to chapter 8. That Christ has been divinely selected as a Priest in the same way that a Levitical Priest was selected to perform his function. The only difference is that their ancestral line is the issue. Where in the case of Christ, the line isn't the issue, but it is by divine Oath. God swore that there would be a Priest.

And He declared that there would be only one. Not many. Just one. There is only one Priest after the order of Melchizedek. There is no session of people. Only one. And that is the Messiah.

(2F) Now, also in this verse there is a contrast between christ and the Levitical Priest. I would like you to look carefully at Vs 2. ^{He} ~~He~~ is a minister in the sanctuary, and in the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, not man."

Now the word "sanctuary" literally means "the holies". He is a minister of the "holies". It is the word "holy" in the plural. And people often ask about this verse. "WHAT IS IT TALKING ABOUT?" "IS IT TALKING ABOUT A LITERAL BUILDING OR PLACE?"

It is my opinion based on the content of chapter 8 and 9 that the "holies", in the plural, is speaking about the "holy of holies" into which the High Priest went once a year.

Now, all of the Levitical priest were able to minister in the temple. But only the High Priest went into the Holy of Holies once a year to offer sacrifice. Christ, according to this verse, is a minister of the "Holies." WELL, WHAT HOLIES?....It is not a tabernacle that is actually a physical structure in heaven, as some have concluded. Because if you will turn over to chapter 9, verse 24, you will see that the Bible tells you where the "Holy of Holies" is in which Christ is now ministering as a Priest.

Chapter 9 verse 24 says: (Read 9:24).....

Where is the sanctuary? right now?.....in which Christ is serving as a Priest?.....ANSWER.....The place where God dwells in heaven.

It does not require, as some folks teach, that there is an actual constructed tabernacle in heaven. And that sacrifices of animals are going on and Christ is doing that. Or, that Christ is completing the Atonement. Or that he did it in ~~1914~~ ¹⁹¹⁴.....No.....There is no earthly sanctuary, constructed or made with hands seating in heaven. There is not!..

The sanctuary is heaven itself.....The Priesthood of Christ is going on before the presence of the heavenly Father in heaven.....

Now, it also says, Vs 2, "the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched." Some look at this verse and say, "the one in the O.T. was the false one." Because this is the true one." And they never should worship in the false one....NO.....There are two ways to express "true" in Greek.

One, means "true" in contrast to that which is false. And that is not the word used here.

The other one is "true" meaning "in the sense reality of which the other is a counter part, or that which appears to be. It is a type. In other words, that which is true would be in contrast with that which is a "type". Merely symbolizing and not really the true.

So, what he is saying is that Christ is a minister in the true tabernacle Meaning: that the old one which was in the wilderness, all that it did was teach, or symbolize what Christ does now in heaven.

Which means, that if you ~~study~~ study the O.T. tabernacle and don't see Jesus, you had better go back and study it again. If you don't see Christ, in all that the Jews did in the old tabernacle, you are not studying it correctly. Because it all was a type of what is really the true thing. The true thing is Jesus in our sacrifice and in our Priest. Which makes me believe that every time a Jew performed a sacrifice in the O.T. Tabernacle, he was placing his faith in what was the reality of that event. And that is the true sacrifice of the Messiah. If He was truly a believer in the O.T., He believed God's plan. And he was looking forward to the coming of the Messiah.

The Prophet Jeremiah in preaching about the New Covenant said: the day is coming when God, himself, is going to take away the sins of his people. And yet, every Jew knew that when he brought a sacrifice it only covered sin. But, the day is coming when God will take it away. That is the new covenant. So, the old covenant is a remainder to the Jew as he participated in it, of the coming new covenant. And that is where many people are confused today. People who continue to believe that we must follow the law and the practices of the Old Testament covenant. That God wants us to....No...

The old covenant ended with the death of Christ. And the new covenant is now in force. And that, my friends, is what the old covenant was ~~pic~~ pictureing. The Old Testament is not different from the New. Not at all. It is one and the same. The New Testament is in the Old covenant. And it is simply the reality of what the Old covenant teaching.

I don't want to belabor this point. But believe you me it is serious. Even in terms of application. So many of us have never really been set free, personally. We really haven't. We are still trying to governor our lives like the Jews did in the wilderness. And you cannot do it. The Bible teaches that it is faith in Christ alone. Not only to know that you are going to be in heaven, but, also, how we live as believers. Faith alone in what Christ has already done. Not in what you think you can do. Even in obedience to the law.

If you walk under the control of the Holy Spirit, Paul says you will fulfill the law. The important thing is that you walk by faith in what God has already done. And to believe in God's power and not in your own strength. To perform deeds so that in some way you might be more acceptable in God's sight.....NO way.....WALK BY FAITH...JUST AS YOU RECEIVED JEUS CHRIST BY FAITH, SO WALK YOU IN HIM.....

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Let us close in Prayer
